

to me to approach much more closely to *M. atricapilla* than to *M. collaris*, and I am somewhat doubtful as to whether von Homeyer was justified in according to it specific rank ; but if, as stated by him, this form alone inhabits the Caucasus, it should at all events be regarded as a local race.

Dr. Radde ('Ornis Caucasia,' p. 286) remarks that out of more than a hundred examples of Pied Flycatchers sent to him from Lenkoran he did not find a single typical *M. collaris*, but that they differed curiously from true *M. atricapilla*, and had a peculiar tendency towards *M. collaris*. This confirms von Homeyer's statement. Moreover Dr. Radde gives a careful description of his specimens, which tends to show that, though they vary somewhat, yet they all seem to be referable to von Homeyer's *M. semitorquata*.

I cannot say whether this form is found in Persia, as all the specimens of Pied Flycatchers brought back by Mr. Blanford were, as he says, in immature plumage. I have examined the series in the British Museum, and do not find any specimen referable to the present form. According to Dr. Sharpe, however (*Ibis*, 1891, p. 110), a specimen received from Bushire agrees with von Homeyer's description of *M. semitorquata*.

XXXII.—*On a Collection of Birds from Erzeroom.*

By H. E. DRESSER, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

IN 1880 my friend the late Mr. James Zohrab, who was then H.M. Consul at Erzeroom, made a collection of skins and eggs, which he sent to me soon afterwards. I made a careful examination of the collection, and drew up a list of them with notes, intending to publish it. I did not then carry out the intention, but put the list on one side. As, however, so little has been recorded relative to the ornithology of this district of Asia Minor, it may be of interest to enumerate the species obtained by Mr. Zohrab, so I give the list below ; and, as I have still in my possession nearly all the specimens referred to, I have been able to examine them and to revise the notes

made upon their receipt. Unfortunately, Mr. Zohrab's eggs had been packed in sawdust, and as most of this had filtered out in transit, there were but few specimens undamaged when I unpacked them, and the salvage from the terrible wreck was indeed small. However, I managed to save a few interesting examples, which I have still in my collection. There were also many others of interest, though hopelessly damaged, and I was able to compare the pieces with perfect eggs in my collection before throwing them away.

The species represented in the series were the following :—

Turdus musicus, Linn.

Two specimens, rather pale in colour, but otherwise not differing from British examples.

Turdus torquatus, Linn.

A single specimen in autumn plumage, which agrees closely with the British form. It does not possess the broad white margins to the feathers which distinguish the form noticed by Stejneger (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1886, p. 365) as distinct from *T. torquatus* under the name *Turdus alpestris*, Brehm.

Monticola saxatilis (Linn.).

One adult female, in full plumage.

Saxicola oenanthe (Linn.).

Six specimens, all in adult plumage. This species is noted as being very numerous.

Saxicola isabellina, Rüpp.

One adult bird.

Saxicola finschi, Heugl.

Two males, in adult dress, agreeing closely with specimens obtained in the Taurus by Mr. C. G. Danford. This Chat breeds near Erzeroom, as eggs were sent by Mr. Zohrab which closely agreed with authentic eggs in my collection, but they were in such a hopelessly smashed state that I could not possibly mend them.

PRATINCOLA RUBETRA (Linn.).

One adult bird.

RUTICILLA PHÆNICURUS (Linn.).

Five adult males; said to be common.

RUTICILLA OCHRURA (Gmel.).

One adult pair; sent as "Black Redstarts," without any further remarks. It is interesting to have these specimens from the locality whence Gould described this species under the name of *Ruticilla erythroprocta*. I may here remark that in 1880 Mr. C. G. Danford gave me a couple of what he said were exceedingly fine skins of the Black Redstart, both very old males, which he had shot in Asia Minor the year before. I put them on one side, and did not embody them in my collection till some time after, and then, when I placed them in my series of *Ruticilla titys*, I at once saw that they were different, and on taking them to the British Museum I found on comparison that they agreed with Gould's types of *R. erythroprocta*. A nest and eggs were also sent by Mr. Zohrab along with the two birds above referred to, and fortunately one egg survived the general wreck, and is now in my collection. The nest is small, composed of fine rootlets and bents, with but little hair and moss, and the egg is white, closely resembling those of *Ruticilla titys*.

CYANECULA WOLFI, C. L. Brehm.

Two adult males were sent, as also a nest with four eggs, which latter closely resembled eggs in my collection obtained in Germany.

ERITHACUS RUBECULA (Linn.).

One rather pale specimen, which agrees with West-European examples, and is not referable to *Erithacus hyrcanus*.

PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS (Linn.).

Two adult examples.

MOTACILLA ALBA, Linn.

One specimen, in change of plumage.

MOTACILLA MELANOCEPHALA, Licht.

One adult bird.

ANTHUS PRATENSIS (Linn.).

One specimen.

ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS (Linn.).

One specimen, not differing from examples from Southern Europe.

LANIUS COLLURIO (Linn.).

One adult male, rather pale in general tone of colour.

HIRUNDO RUSTICA, Linn.

One pair.

PETRONIA STULTA (Gmel.).

Six specimens, all very clearly and well marked.

MONTIFRINGILLA ALPICOLA (Pall.).

Only three specimens were sent, though it was marked on the list as being very common. When, in 1876, I wrote the article in the 'Birds of Europe' on *M. nivalis* (vol. ii. p. 617) I was inclined, owing to lack of material, to look on the present as a somewhat doubtful species, but since then I have had an opportunity of examining many specimens from Turkestan besides these three from Erzeroom, and I am now convinced that the Eastern and Western forms must be specifically separated, *Montifringilla alpicola* having the crown and nape dull brown instead of ashy grey. This difference is very well shown in Dr. Radde's plate in his recently published work on the birds of the Caucasus ('Ornis Caucasica,' taf. viii.). Compared with specimens from Turkestan, these examples from Erzeroom agree very closely, but are, if anything, rather paler in tone of colour.

FRINGILLA CÆLEBS, Linn.

One adult female.

LINOTA CANNABINA (Linn.).

One old male, rather brighter in colour than average European specimens.

LINOTA BREVIROSTRIS, Gould.

This bird must be very common near Erzeroom, as ten specimens were sent, nearly all of which were in full breeding-dress, also several nests with eggs, one clutch of which fortunately arrived in good condition, and is now in my collection.

ERYTHROSPIZA SANGUINEA (Gould).

Although this bird was marked as being common, only three specimens were sent, along with a nest with eggs. But these latter were so broken that I was unable to patch up a single one to add to my collection.

EMBERIZA MILIARIA, Linn.

Two specimens.

EMBERIZA CITRINELLA, Linn.

Three specimens.

EMBERIZA HORTULANA, Linn.

One female only.

ALAUDA ARVENSIS, Linn.

One specimen.

MELANOCORYPHA CALANDRA (Linn.).

One adult bird.

OTOCORYS PENICILLATA (Gould).

Said to be common. Five specimens, closely agreeing with others in my collection from Turkestan, were sent, and also a nest with four eggs, which, however, were hopelessly smashed.

STURNUS PURPURASCENS, Gould.

Several specimens, together with more than a dozen eggs, were sent. The eggs were fortunately nearly all uninjured.

CORVUS MONEDULA, Linn.

Two specimens, closely resembling examples from Western Europe, but having the collar rather whiter, and being somewhat smaller in size.

CORVUS FRUGILEGUS, Linn.

CYSELUS APUS (Linn.).

IYNX TORQUILLA, Linn.

UPUPA EPOPS, Linn.

} One specimen of each of
these birds.

BUBO IGNAVUS, Forst.

One rather large and pale specimen, probably a female,
but the sex was not marked.

ATHENE GLAUX (Savigny).

One pale specimen.

CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS (Linn.).

Two females, together with several eggs.

AQUILA MOGILNIK (Gmel.).

One nearly adult specimen.

FALCO TINNUNCULUS, Linn.

One female.

ARDEA PURPUREA, Linn.

One immature bird.

NYCTICORAX GRISEUS (Linn.).

Two adults and one young bird.

TADORNA CASARCA (Linn.).

One male and several eggs.

CHAULELASMUS STREPERUS (Linn.).

FULIGULA FERINA (Linn.).

ERISMATURA LEUCOCEPHALA (Scop.).

PORZANA MARUETTA (Leach).

GRUS VIRGO (Linn.).

GLAREOLA MELANOPTERA, Nordm.

VANELLUS VULGARIS, Bechst.

GALLINAGO MAJOR (Gmel.).

GALLINAGO CÆLESTIS (Frenzel).

TOTANUS CALIDRIS (Linn.).

STERNA FLUVIATILIS, Naum.

PODICEPS CRISTATUS (Linn.).

PODICEPS GRISEIGENA (Bodd.).

PODICEPS NIGRICOLLIS (C. L. Brehm).

Of the last fourteen species one specimen only of each was sent, with the exception of *Podiceps griseigena*, of which there were a pair of adult birds and several eggs. There were also eggs of *Podiceps nigricollis* sent, but all of them were broken. All the specimens were stated to have been obtained in the neighbourhood of Erzeroom, but no notes accompanied the collection, and merely a list, on which several species were marked as being common, was appended.

XXXIII.—On a Collection of Birds from Western Szechuen.
By HENRY SEEBOHM.

MR. A. E. PRATT has lately returned from an entomological expedition to the Chinese frontiers of Thibet, and has brought with him a small collection of birds, chiefly from a locality 13,500 feet above the sea-level, a little to the west of Tachien-lu, about 30° north latitude and 102° west longitude, ten days' journey south-east of Moupin, where l'Abbé David made so many interesting discoveries.

Although there are no novelties in the collection, there are examples of several species of great interest.

MERULA KESSLERI.

There are four males and two females in the collection, whence it may be inferred that this fine Ousel is not uncommon in Western Szechuen. There is no example of *Merula gouldi* in the collection, which is rather remarkable, as l'Abbé David did not find *Merula kessleri* in either China or Thibet, but states that *Merula gouldi* was very common both in Western Szechuen and in Eastern Thibet. I have examples of both these species collected by General Prjevalski in Kansu. Mr. Pratt's examples were all obtained amongst